THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) The views expressed by India on disarmament and non-proliferation at the recent Summit meeting of the Security Council were noted.

(b) The NPT signatory States have been calling for universalization of the Treaty and, in this connection they have in general terms been urging States which are not parties to the NPT to sign the Treaty.

(c) 144 countries have signed the NPT as of September, 1991. Several countries on the other hands continue to remain opposed to the NPT.

(d) No such assurance has been provided.

Tie up with U.S.A. on defence system

*176. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of various press reports regarding tie up between India's defence system and that of the U.S.A.;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether it is in conformity with India's policy of non-alignment; and

(c) if not, why these reports were not contradicted in the interest of the country's good name?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are a large number of countries with which India cooperates in the defence field. This does not in any way violate India's non-aligned status.

(c) Does not arise.

Protection to Handloom Sector

*177. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govenment have assured protection to the handloom sector as reported in a news item in Economic Times of the 28th January, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the full details of the programme worked out with special reference to Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) whether Government have ensured maximum export of handlooms and retention of mill cloth for the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to preserve the unique role of handlooms and also to improve the socio-economic conditions of the handloom weavers, Government is implementing the following measures throughout the country including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

(i) The Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme to ensure production of hank yarn for the handloom sector;

(ii) Loan assistance towards Share capital participation in weavers cooperative spinning mills for production of yarn for the handloom sector;

(iii) Assistance to the National Handloom Development Corporation for their yarn supply operations and development activities;

(iv) Janata Cloth Scheme;

(v) Welfare measures under Thrift Fond Scheme and Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme;

(vi) Assistance for setting up of Pre-loom and Post-loom processing facilities;

(vii) Assistance for modernisation of looms;

(viii) Scheme of decentralised training to train weavers on improved technology;

(ix) Design support and provision of technological inputs through a number of Weavers' Service Centres in the country;

(x) A number of fiscal consessions to the handloom sector to remove the cost handicap of handlooms vis-a-vis the powerlooms;

(xi) Providing Market Development Assistance to the handloom organisations;

(xii) Special rebate on sales of handloom goods at the National Handloom Expos;

(xiii) Assistance for setting up of marketing complexes by National and State Handloom Agencies; and

(xiv) Assistance for National Design Collection Programmes for the promotion of unique weavers and designs through Exhibition-cum-sales.

In addition to the above a few new schemes have been introduced during the year 1991-92. They are (i) Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme; (ii) Margin Money for Destitute Weavers; and (iii) New Project Package Scheme. The Thrift Fund Scheme has been revised and has been expanded to include weavers outside the cooperative fold also. The unit cost for Workshed-cum-Housing has been upgraded and provision for electrification and land-cost included in the unit cost.

Among several measures taken to intervene effectively and to prevent deterioration of condition of handloom weavers, some of the steps with reference to Andhra Pradesh are outlined below:—

(a) Additional target of 5 million square metres of Janata cloth was allotted to Andhra Pradesh and for this purpose a sum of Rs. 127.50 lakhs was advanced. The allocation was initially restricted to districts of Guntur, Krishna and Prakash but as per the request of Government of Andhra Pradesh they have also been allowed to use part of the additional target in other parts of the State. This is in addition to the initial target of 52 million square metres.

(b) For non-janata cloth, APCO was given an addtional allocation for Market Development Assistance to enable it to procure cloth worth Rs. 2 crores.

(c) A new scheme called 'Margin Money for Destitute Weavers' has been introduced in the country so as to cover on an average 200 weavers per district. Keeping in view the indigent conditions of weavers in Andhra Pradesh eight additional societies in the 4 districts were sanctioned. This will provide long term organisational support to weavers and provide reasonable protection to them from the vagaries of market.

(d) In order to improve the marketability of the products and upgradation of skill of weavers, decentralised training was sanctioned for 300 weavers. The trainees would also be provided with improved accessories.

(e) A Group Insurance Scheme to cover 12,000 weavers in the districts of Guntur, Krishna and Prakasam has been sanctioned and the share of Government of India released.

(f) Government of Andhra Pradesh has restored the earlier position which provided for priority in procurement for Government supplies to the handloom sector and handloom agencies.

(g) Government of Andhra Pradesh has arranged distribution of ex-gratia of Rs. 5,000 per family of deceased weaver through non-governmental agencies. 72 families have been provided such assistance.

(h) 2455 weavers have been sanctioned loans @ Rs. 1,000/- by commercial banks.

(i) Weakness of primary societies has been one of the problems. Apart from the scheme meant for destitute weavers referred to above, Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken steps to hold fresh elections for weavers cooperative societies all over the State so as to revitalise them.

(c) Indian textile and clothing exports are the single biggest commodity exported from the country, accounting for about 25 per cent of Indian exports. The total handloom exports constitute 10 per cent of the overall textile and clothing exports in the country. Considering the need to earn foreign exchange, it may not be possible to retain mill cloth for domestic market. Government have however been taking a number of steps to boost exports of handloom products. Under the new quota policy, 3 per cent of textiles quota and 2 per cent of garments quota has been reserved for handlooms.

रेशम डिजाइन-सह-अनुसंधान केन्द्र की स्थापना

*178. **डा० बापू कालवाते**: क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इण्डियन सिल्क एक्सपोर्ट प्रोमोशन काउंसिल ने रेशम डिजाइन-सह-अनुसंधान केन्द्र बनाने के लिये सरकार से अनुरोध किया है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार ऐसा एक केन्द्र और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अशोक गहलोत) : (क) 24 जनवरी 1992 को हुए परिषद के वार्षिक पुरस्कार समारोह में भारतीय रेशम निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद अध्यक्ष ने अपने भाषण में यह सुझाव दिया था कि सरकार राष्ट्रीय रेशम उत्पादन परियोजना के अन्तर्गत रेशम डिजाइन-सह-अनुसंधान केन्द्र की स्थापना के लिये निधियों का आवंटन कर सकती है ।

(ख) और (ग) केन्द्रीय रेशम बोर्ड ने लगभग 1 करोड़ रु० के व्यय पर राष्ट्रीय रेशम उत्पादन परियोजना के अंतर्गत एवं डिजाइन केन्द्र की स्थापना करने के लिये पहले से ही कार्रवाई शुरू कर दी है । बोर्ड के बंगलौर में स्थित केन्द्रीय रेशम प्रौद्योगिकीय अनुसंधान संस्थान में स्थापित किये जा रहे केन्द्र में निम्नलिखित उप-एकक होंगे :—

(1) डिजाइन कलेक्शर तथा डुप्लीकेशन (म्यूजियम)

(2) आर्ट स्टेडियो

(3) प्रशासन अनुसंधान अध्ययन

(4) कम्प्यूटर की सहायता से वस्त्र डिजाइन (डी ए टी ई) तथा कलर मैचिंग

(5) वूवन तथा प्रिंटिंग डिजाइन का एनीवेशन ।